GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1853
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
CRASH OF AIRCRAFT
Baxla Shri Joachim;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh;Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Mollah Shri Hannan;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fighter aircraft and helicopters crashed during 2005 till date, place-wise;

(b) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof and compensation paid in each case;

(c) whether each crash has been investigated;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether technical inspections of these aircrafts were got done from the company from which they were purchased;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the air crash rate in future;

(h) whether an Expert Committee on air crash, constituted in December 2004, has submitted its report; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to implement the recommendations of said Committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (i): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1853 FOR 4.8.2005

A total number of 3 fighter aircraft and 7 helicopters of the Defence Forces have crashed during the year 2005, till 30.7.2005. The details of these aircraft accidents indicating the date and place of accidents, loss of life/property and cause of the accident is Annexed.

There was no loss of civil property in the above accidents. The compensation/benefits to the next of the kin of the Armed Forces Personnel/civilians are being processed according to the existing rules. However, a sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- has already been paid to one civilian killed in the accident which took place on 8th March, 2005 as an interim relief. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 23,000/- has been paid to the next of the kin of the Service personnel as interim relief who died in the accident which took place on 22nd May, 2005.

The technical inspection of these aircraft after the accident were got done from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry.

A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the OEMs of concerned countries are also maintained to remove the technical defects of aircraft.

The Expert Committee on Aircraft Accidents has submitted its report to the Government in May, 2005. The report of the Committee is a comprehensive document covering various aspects of operations, maintenance, training, environment, procurement and flight safety issues to reduce the accidents in the Indian Air Force.

Necessary actions are continuously undertaken with regard to improving flight safety and to reduce aircraft accidents in the IAF.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT GIVEN IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1853 FOR 4.8.2005

Sl.No.	Date of Accident	Service	Aircraft	Place	Cause of accident	Fatal (Aircrew/ Service personnel)	Fatal (Civilian)
1.	4th Jan., 2005	Air Force	MiG-21	Nal, Bikaner	Human Error(Servicing)	-	-
2.	1st Feb., 2005	Air Force	Chetak	Jamnagar	Unresolved	-	-
3.	18th Feb., 2005	Army	Cheetah	Siachen, J&K	Court of Inquiry in progress	-	-
4.	21st Feb., 2005	Navy	Chetak	Vishakhapatnam	Material Failure	-	-
5.	4th March, 2005	Air Force	HPT-32	Dundigal, Hyderabad	Human Error (Aircrew)	1	-
6.	8th March, 2005	Air Force	MiG-21	Nal, Bikaner	Human Error (Aircrew)	1	1
7	6th May, 2005	Navy	Chetak	Arakkonam	Material Failure	3	-
8.	11th May, 2005	Air Force	Jaguar	Gorakhpur	Court of Inquiry in progress	1	-
9.	17th May, 2005	Navy	Sea Harrier	Goa	Aircrew Error(Judgment)	-	-
10.	22nd May, 2005	Air Force	Mi-8	Kamzwal, Mizoram	Court of Inquiry in progress	1	-